Project I.D. No111

NAME: Kawasaki, Hikozo DATE OF BIRTH: 1882 PLACE OF BIRTH: Kumamoto
Age: 93 Sex: M Marital Status: M Education: Agricultural school

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1899 Age: 17 M.S. S. Port of entry: Victoria B
Occupation/s: 1. Farm laborer 2. Veg. peddler 3. Vegetable wholesaler
Place of residence: 1. Guadalupe 2. Santa Maria 3. Tacoma, Wash. 3
Religious affiliation: Buddhist church 4. Farmer
Community organizations/activities:

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: Puyallup
Name of relocation center: ~~Minidoka, Idaho~~
Dispensation of property: Americans took care of it.
Jobs held in camp: 1. Public works foreman
Jobs held outside of camp:
Left camp to go to:

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: Fall '45
Address/es: 1. Tacoma, Wash. 2.
3.
Religious affiliation: Buddhist church
Activities: 1. 2. 3.
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death:

Name of interviewer: Takarabe Date: 2/20/75 Place: Tacoma, Wash.

Translator: Mabel Hall

T: Please tell me your name at first.

K: It is Hikozo Kawasaki.

Q: Where were you born?

A: In Kumamoto.

Q: When were you born?

A: In 1882.

Q: How old are you now?

A: I will be 93 on February 28.

Q: What did your father do?

A: He was a farmer.

Q: What did he grow?

A: He grew rice.

Q: How much land did he own?

A: I heard that he inherited 7 to 8 chobu from his father, but when I left there he had only about 4 chobu.

Q: What kind of a man was your father?

A: He was a farmer, but when he was young he was a soldier and farmed on the side. If there was a war he went to war carrying a rifle.

Q: What kind of a woman was your mother?

A: She was a doctor's daughter but she died when I was 4 years old, and a stepmother came. I did not like school. My real mother would have scolded me and sent me to school, but my stepmother didn't, so I went to school only up to 6th grade.

Q: Did you ever miss your real mother?

A: Of course I did. I was only 4 years old, so I missed her very much. It is pitiful not to have a mother.

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

A: A sister and an older brother.

Q: Were there any children of your stepmother?

A: He succeeded the family. My brother became a teacher after graduating from school. I left home when I was 18 and went to school for a while.

Q: What did you do after finishing the 6th grade?

A: I helped my father farm. When I was 18 I decided to study as I could not even read a newspaper. I worked at school during the day and studied at night.

Q: What kind of a school was it?

A: It was an agricultural school. I worked there in the daytime as I was better than teachers in practical training. I studied under the dormitory master at night.

Q: You told be before that you started working when you were 12 years old, didn't you?

A: Yes, I started working in the field since I was 12. When I was in the 6th grade my brother asked me who I think should farm, he or I. I told him that he should go to school, and I would farm.

Q: Didn't you want to go to school?

A: I didn't like school.

Q: What kind of fun did you have when you were little?

A: Festivals were fun.

Q: Did you have any aad memories?

A: I didn't have any sad memories as I was a boy.

Q: Did you get along well with your stepmother?

A: She took good care of me. I was farming, but as I grew older I thought I should study, so I ran away from home. When my brother came to the city he told me to go home, but I told him that I wanted to live my own life so I would not go home.

Q: Was your father the only man at home?

A: He had two hired men and one woman.

Q: Were there only two sons?

A: One was born later. That is why I left home.

Q: Was he your stepmother's son?

A: Yes, a boy was born to my stepmother, so I left home as I didn't want to bother her.

Q: Were you supposed tp be the heir?

A: No, I had an older brother, who was attending a school. As I didn't learn well they did not encourage me. I had a hard time.

Q: What was hard? About what time did you get up in the morning?

A: In Japan we got up at daybreak, In those days farmers had hard times as tax was high, and we had not recovered from the damage of the Ten Year War. It was the same everywhere. Other people who came to America told me that they came here because it was too hard to make a living there.

Q: Did you go to work after you finished the 6th grade?

A: Yes, I worked very hard.

Q: How about night time?

A: It was easy in summer. We worked till it got dark. In winter we went to woods and cut down trees for firewood to be used all year round. All the Japanese farmers grew up doing that kind of work.

Q: When did you start using horses?

A: Since I was 11 years old.

Q: Did you work with your father?

A: Yes. My father taught me how to work. He liked my brother as he worked hard. He told him to study. My brother came to America after I came here. He was in Formosa for a while but he didn't do well there as he was not used to work in Japan. When I was in Santa Maria he came to this country.

Q: Do you remember about the Ten Year War?

A: I only heard about it from older poeple.

Q: What kind of thing did you hear about it? Do you remember?

A: I heard that the war of Tabaruzaka and Kanakugi was fierce, and many people died in the war. Four brothers of my relative went to war with Saigo Takamori and only one came home alive.

Q: Were some people from Kumamoto on Saigo's side?

A: Yes, many were. All my relatives were on Saigo's side except my father and his brother. They all took swords and rifles when they left for war.

T: I thought Saigo did not like people from Kumamoto.

K: No, if he didn't like them he wouldn't have them join him. My wife's father was 16 when he went to war. When the war was over he was not beheaded as he was only 16 years old.

Q: Did everybody like Saigo?

A: Yes, they did. All the soldiers were on Saigo's side.

Q: How did you happen to come to America?

A: I thought it was no use staying in Japan. I was working at school then, so I asked the principal where I should go. He told me to go to America, so I came here.

Q: Was the school in Kumamoto City?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: Was it a private school?

A: No, it was a prefectural school. I was not a student. I worked there. I got up early in the morning and took care of horses and cows and milked the cows. I received salary after 6 months.

Q: How long did you stay at the school?

A: I think I stayed there for about a year and a half.

Q: How old were you when you came to America?

A: I think I was 21 years old.

Q: What year was it then?

A: It was November 1899.

Q: Where did you land?

A: I landed in Canada and then came to Sacramento by train.

Q: Did your parents say anything when you left Japan?

A; They told me to go, and gave me some money. They told me that it would not have been any good staying in Japan, so leave soon.

Q: Where did the ship sail from?

A: From Kobe. It was an old ship named ?.

Q: Did the ship stop at Tokyo?

A: No, it stopped at Yokohama. It stopped there 2 or 3 nights so we went ashore to have dinner.

Q: Did you go straight to Canada from there?

A: Yes.

Q: Did they give you a physical examination in Canada?

A: Not much, just eyes. Then they asked me where I was going, so I told them that I was going to America. Then they stamped my passport.

Q: Wasn't there any strict examination when you came here?

A: No, there wasn't. They helped us if we had legal passports.

Q: Was the passport issued without any trouble in Japan?

A: It was issued at once as I had a certificate from school. If I didn't have it I couldn't have come here. Around 1900 Japanese could go to Hawaii easily, but could not come to America.

Q: What did you give as the reason for coming to America?

A: I was at school, so a teacher wrote a letter for me.

Q: Did you come here as a student?

A: I came as a researcher for the agricultural school.

Q: You came here early for a Japanese, didn't you?

A: Yes, but there were poeple who came before me. In those days we could come here if we knew someone who were here already and send for us, but if we didn't know anybody here it was hard to come here. Around 1900 many Japanese moved from Hawaii, but it was stopped not long after that.

Q: What kind of people were on board the ship?

A: It was a British ship. There were some people who were coming back to America for the second time bringing a few students with them. There were altogether 12 or 13 people on board.

Q: Do you remember any names?

A: I forgot. I just remember one name. A man named Tamekichi Nishiyama was working as a policeman in Canada, so I only remember his name. When I told a friend at Tacoma that I was on the same ship with a man named Tamekichi Nishiyama, he said that he was from the same village.

Q: What kind of a country did you think America was?

A: I thought it was a good place as people save money and send them home.

Q: How did you feel when you arrived in Canada?

A: I thought it was a nice place. At that time the British consul told me that he would give me land, but I could not do anything without money. He told me that he would give me financial help, but I didn't know anything, so I left there.

Q: Didn't you want to stay in Canada?

A: No, it was too cold. I needed the money, and I had to develop the land so I didn't stay there.

Q: How long did you stay in Canada?

A: I stayed there for about a week.

Q: Did you go sight-seeing?

A: No, I didn't. I just went to see a sawmill.

Q: Were there many Japanese?

A: Many Japanese were working at the sawmill.

Q: Did you come here without knowing anybody here?

A: I didn't know anybody.

Q: Who took care of you in Canada?

A: Nobody.

Q: Could you find your way around?

A: No, but people from a Japanese hotel picked me up and took good care of me. People were very kind in those days. There was only one Japanese hotel in Vicoria then. I think his name was Ozawa. I was surprised when I went there the year before last. It has become a big city.

Q: Was Victoria a small town then?

A: I could see one hotel, and there was a town under it.

T: After staying in Canada for about a week you took a train ....

K: I came to Sacramento by train. People from Hiroshima were here.

Q: Did you come to Sacramento because people who came on the same ship with you came to Sacramento?

A: They came here before me. I stayed in Canada for a while. We had a difficult time on the train as we did not know English. We could not eat, so an American bought bread and other food and gave us. We wanted to pay him but he did not take the money.

Q: How long did it take by train?

A: I think it took one or two nights.

Q: What other difficulties did you have?

A: I didn't have any difficulty since I came here.

Q: Was language the only difficulty?

A: That was the only difficulty. After we came to Sacramento we stayed near . A man from Kumamoto had a barber shop. There was a man named Matsumoto who was farming in Delta district. I stayed there for about a week, and then went to Guadalupe and stayed there for 7 years.

Q: Why did you go to Santa Maria?

A: Because my friend's relatives were there.

Q: What did you do there?

A: I grew sugar beets. I went there two years ago and found out that everyone has paased away. Rev. Futaba, a Buddhist priest took me to the cemetery. I was surprised to find about ten of my friends buried there.

Q: Did you live in Guadalupe for 6 years?

A: Yes. I raised sugar beets there for 8 years.

Q: Whom did you work for?

A: Mr. Hagiya. Then I moved to Santa Maria as my friends were there. I made friends with a few people from Kagoshima there.

Q: How was the life in Santa Maria then? Was everybody single?

A: Yes, everybody was single. Married men were quite old.

Q: Were you around 27 or 28 then?

A: Yes. I was around 26 or 27 when I was in Santa Maria.

Q: How was the relationship with the white people?

A: It was not bad.

Q: Were they friendly with you?

A: Yes, they were. When I went to get a job the wife asked, "Travajo or comero?" so I answered, "Not comero, travajo." Then she would tell me where to go.

Q: What does that mean?

A: "Travajo" means work. "Comero" means to eat. She asked me if I wanted a job or I wanted to eat.

Q: Is that Spanish?

A: I think she was Spanish. They were good to me. When we didn't have sugar beets work after June, they used to give me a job of hoeing. They were good to me.

Q: Were you single then?

A: There were no married man then.

Q: What else do you remember about those days?

A: It was good that I had many friends.

Q: Weren't you lonesome?

A: I wasn't lonesome at all. I had a good time. In those days a few people from Kagoshima were working at the sugar beets ranch at the season, and when I went there they used to invite me to dinner.

Q: What kind of recreation did you have then?

A: We used to go out after work and gambled or played billiard. There wasn't anything else to do.

Q: Were there many Japanese there?

A: Yes, there were. On the other side of Santa Maria was Mr. Hirokawa from Hiroshima, and Mr. Asano from Okayama. At Buna was Mr. Tanaka from Hiroshima. He wasn't there any more when I went back there.

Q: What kind of place did you sleep at?

A: I slept in the camp.

Q: Did you live in a camp?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did they find a job for you in the camp?

A: Mr. Hagiya gave us subcontract in sugar beets. If 30 people had a subcontract of 7,000 acres, each person had quite a bit. The boss of the camp took his share first, and then divided the rest to everybody. We had a contract of so much for each acre. When we figure how much for thinning and how much for hoeing we have some money left over. The boss took the commision and gave us the rest.

Q: Did you have your meals in camp?

A: Yes, they had hired people to cook for us.

Q: Was the food good?

A: Yes, it was good. People who worked for the railroad before used to say that our Miso (bean paste) tasted good.

T: I heard that those who worked on railroad had a hard time.

K: Yes, they did. Food was good at our camp.

T: Maybe because there were many Japanese.

K: It was really good. We could not have worked on sugar beets eating poor food. Everybody was raising chicken outside Santa Maria, so they bought chicken by a truckload, and bought eggs by a case at a time. That is why our food was good.

Q: What time did you start working in the morning?

A: From 6 o'clock. We worked from 6 o'clock in the morning till 6 o'clock in the evening. When we did the irrigation we worked 24 hours a day without sleep. We worked hard.

Q: Did you do that for 6 years?

A: For 8 years/

Q: How could your body take so much work?

A: It couldn't, especially irrigation. I did it all the while I worked there. They needed someone who knew well about it as it was dangerous. We got scolded if we let the water overflow. There was no gravel on the road, so in summertime when cars sped by, the dirt flew all over the place. The buses between Santa Maria and Guadalupe passed by everyday. There was a narrow gage from Santa Maria to San Luis Obispo.

Q: What is a narrow gage?

A: It is a small train.

Q: How did you irrigate?

A: One patch was about the width of this road. We used about 28 horses to irrigate. Later we used step-plough. We had to have someone who knew well about irrigation. White men drove the horses, but a man who knew well about irrigation had to lead the way and the horses followed him.

Q: Did the irrigators worked at night, too?

A: He had to work 24 hours and rest 24 hours. It was hard.

Q: Did you do that at night, too?

A: We did it day and night. We changed shift at 6 in the morning.

Q: Why did they do such thing?

A: I don't know why. White men used to do it, but they could not take it, so Japanese took over the work.

Q: Did you work by electric light at night?

A: No, we worked carrying big lanterns on our backs.

Q: Was the work done using horses?

A: No, we made ditches with shovels. In other places we made ditches using about 28 horses. We could not be lazy for, if we are careless the ditches would break. The man who did that kind of work had to be a hard worker.

Q: Did he get good wages?

A: No, everybody was paid the same.

Q: How much was the wages?

A: In those days it was $1.45 a day working 12 hours. Regular workers received 90 cents to a dollar a day.

Q: Did you have to pay for the room and board in the camp?

A: Yes.

Q: Then about how much did you have left over?

A: I had quite a bit left over as things were cheap then. Rice was about $2 a sack, and sugar was about the same. An overall cost 60¢ and a nice suit I bought in Canada was $6. A warm overcoat was only $8. Things were cheap then.

Q: Did you do the irrigation, too?

A: I was the most favorite irrigator of the company. When I was going to leave for Washington they tried to stop me. If the ditches are broken it is hard to stop the water.

Q: Did you attach plough to horses?

A: Yes. Later we used steam plough, also.

Q: Were there any Japanese who became ill?

A: No, there weren't. Everybody was well.

T: I am surprised they stayed healthy.

K: They could keep fit in other work as they worked 11 hours, and they could be idle if they didn't want to work. Some people worked hard and some were idle, but they didn't say anything.

Q: But you couldn't be idle in irrigation, couldn't you?

A: No, if we were idle we would put everyone in trouble. The boss had to be a reliable man, or we would have broken ditches all the time. We worked hard.

Q: Did you and the lazy people get the same wages?

A: Yes, they were the same. They would not have liked me if I complained. The boss had to buy drinks for his men when we went to town. I used to spend $70 in one night in those days.

Q: Did the boss take the men out?

A: The boss used to go out with his men, and the men made the boss buy drinks.

Q: Was the boss Japanese?

A: Yes. Nobody wanted to be a boss as he had to spend money and work hard. If he did not work hard other people didn't. They used to gamble all the time.

Q: I guess there wasn't anything else to do, and they lost all the money they saved. Did they gamble among themselves?

A: No, not among themselves much, because if one takes money from others there would be bad feeling among themselves. That is why they did not gamble in the camp if possible.

Q: Where did they gamble then?

A: In China Town. Some Japanese gamblers used to go to camps to gamble with card, but we didn't let them come to our camp.

Q: Did they gamble with Japanese playing cards?

A: Japanese playing cardssand poker. We didn't let them in our camp, so they threatened us with rifles. We gave them a hard time once, so they didn't bother us since then.

Q: Did you hit them?

A: They slighted us, so we treated them with drinks, and then threatened to kill them with an ax. They ran away. If we face them boldly the racketeers would stop bothering us because they are afraid, too.

Q: Did the racketeers bum from others?

A: They grumble if we don't gamble with them. If they gamble and win they go back happy.

Q: Were there many people like that?

A: Yes, there were many. There were 2 or 3 families who were making their living like that in Guadalupe. But there were none in Santa Maria because they were afraid of a man from Kagoshima who lived there.

Q: What kind of work did this man from Kagoshima do?

A: He was a pearl fisher when he was in Santa Barbara. Later he moved to Santa Maria.

Q: What was he strong in?

A: He was Rev. Hagiya's _____. He helped Rev. Hagiya become rich.

Q: Was he powerful or did he have many men under him?

A: He didn't have anything. He was an ex-student. He lived in Santa Barbara for a long time before he came to Santa Maria. Mr. Yoshino was his brother.

Q: Why didn't the racketeers go there?

A: They didn't dare go there.

Q: Was it because he was there?

A: Yes. They didn't come to our camp much since he came to our camp.

Q: Was it because he was strong?

A: He was strong, and could understand their language. He would fight with them if they fight, so they were afraid of him and couldn't say anything when they came to our camp. There were racketeers in Guadalupe, but they didn't come to Santa Maria.

Q: Did the racketeers do bad things?

A: They didn't do bad things, but if we didn't gamble with them they became violent. I heard that they used violence on one Emperor's birthday.

Q: What do you mean by "bareta"?

A: They used violence. I forgot where it was that they went to a Sumo ring on the Emperor's birthday just because people didn't bet on Sumo and used violence such as cutting down four poles.

Q: Who wrestled?

A: Young people did. There were many bad people in those days. They were called "gorotsuki" (racketeers). They came to camps to gamble, and if we didn't they used violence. There are no such bad people nowadays.

Q: Where did you go from Santa Maria?

A: I went to Washington state.

Q: Why did you go there?

A: My older brother who was farming there called me, so I went there. My brother came to America after I did. He sent for his wife, and was going to farm, so he wanted me to go there. I told him that I had a good job so I didn't want to go there. He said if I didn't go there he would spend his life doing nothing. He kept on calling me and told me that he bought land, so I went there. Everybody tried to stop me saying it was no use going there. Just as they said, the land was good but was very small so I was ready to come back that night. My brother

cried and tried to stop me. "What are we going to do?" I asked. "We have to do something. Let's go in market business" he said. So we went into market business. As the business became good in the market, people in grocery business complained, so we closed the market. When we closed the market the city people complained as our produce was good and cheap. We had to start and close the market so ~~much~~ many times that I said I didn't want to be in such a business.

Q: What do you mean by closing the market?

A: When the market had good business the people in grocery business complained as they did not sell good, so we closed our store.

Q: Did you open the market?

A: No, the city did. There were about 40 stores in the market.

Q: Did you sell your produce at the market?

A: Yes. We had good business as our produce was good and cheap.

Q: Did the people in grocery business complain then?

A: Yes, that is why we kept on closing the store and opening it again. I said I quit that kind of business, and became a peddler. After I made some money I went into a wholesale business.

Q: What did your brother do?

A: After I became a peddler my brother and his wife could not work well, so I let my brother become a peddler, and I went into a wholesale business. I made some money so I bought a truck.

Q: Around what year was that?

A: I think it was before the World's Fair. (1915)

Q: What year did you come here?

A: In 1906.

Q: Were you in wholesale business for a long time?

A: I was reckless, so I lost some money.

Q: What did you do?

A: I bought too much potatoe and other things. A friend of mine who was going back to Japan wanted to go into wholesale business with me, so I told him that he may lose money and cannot go back to Japan. He said he didn't have to go back to Japan if he could get into business with me, so we went into the wholesale business together. I bought too much produce and lost a lot of money. I told my friend that I would give him the money he lost, so go back to Japan. He said that he did not want to go back to Japan, but he would take the money.

My wife was coming from Japan, and I didn't want to put her in trouble so I quit the business.

Q: How long were you in the wholesale business?

A: Not too long; about a year to a year and a half.

Q: What kind of work does a wholesaler do?

A: We buy apples, potatoe and other produce by carloads and sell them at stores. We also sell by carloads to people who buy by carloads. My brother said my way of buying was reckless.

Q: Did you do that kind of work in the morning?

A: I used to get up early in the morning and went around restautants and stores in Tacoma taking orders before breakfast. Then I shipped the orders to these places. I went shopping in the afternoon.

Q: About what time did you get up in the morning?

A: Very early, but the restaurants were open all night.

Q: Was it around 6 or 7 O'clock?

A: No, around 4;30 or 5 o'clock. It didn't matter how early I went. After I took the order, my butler shipped them out.

Q: Around what time did you quit working?

A: It was quite late, around 9 o'clock.

Q: Then you didn't have much time to sleep, didn't you?

A: I worked hard, but I was poor. My friends have all passed away.

Q: How did you take a wife?

A: She was my cousin, so I called her and she came.

Q: Did you know her before?

A: Yes, she lived at Tabaruzaka about 7 miles away.

Q: Haven't you met her before?

A: No. My brother used to go to her house, but I did not go there as I was farming.

Q: Who acted as a go-between?

A: She was my cousin, so my uncle told me that I should marry her. Then he sent her to me.

Q: How did you feel when your bride came here?

A: I said to her, "I am poor now, so if you want to go home, go home now."

Q: What did she say then?

A: She said, "No. Now that I came here I won't go back no matter how hard it will be." It was after I quit the wholesale business, so I told them that I couldn't do anything if they send her here. She still wanted to come here, so I asked, "Why do you want to come here when I am poor?" She answered, "I don't mind how poor you are. I will work hard." She worked very hard.

Q: What did you do after that?

A: I worked as a peddler, and then I started farming.

Q:Did you become a peddler again?

A: Yes. I worked as a peddler at first. Then I became a wholesaler, and then back to peddler again. After that I became a farmer.

Q: What kind of things did you grow as a farmer?

A: I raised all kinds of vegetables.

Q: Was it like a truck farm?

A: Yes. We cannot grow much in truck farm as it takes many hands.

Q: What kind of vegetables did you grow?

A: Lettuce, onion and all other kinds of vegetables.

Q: About how many acres do you have?

A: About 60 acres. We are very busy in summertime, and over 100 people work here.

Q: Did you keep on farming for a long time?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you continue it till the war broke out?

A: Yes, I did. I worked very hard until the war.

Q: Did you have a hard time during the depression?

A: No, we didn't.

T: Maybe because you were growing vegetables.

K: Yes. Friends in town came to my place as they didn't have jobs, so I gave them potatoes and other things. They used to come often. They had hard times.

Q: What kind of hardship did you have when you farmed?

A: I didn't have any.

Q: Was it better than a peddler?

A: Being a farmer was better than being a peddler. I was treated well.

Q: By whom?

A: The white people treated me well.

Q: Did you buy the land?

A: Yes. Some people trusted me and let me farm without paying the lease on the land which was taken away by the county for not paying the tax. That helped me. I had only four horses, but a millionaire let me use his horses whenever I needed more. That helped me, too.

Q: Did you use the land free beside your own land?

A: Yes. I made much money by that. Since then things became better.

Q: Were the white people good to you at Santa Maria or at Tacoma?

A: They were good to me at both places. They were good to me at Santa Maria, also.

Q: What other white people were kind to you at Tacoma?

A: They were all kind to me. I was made a deputy sheriff, but I didn't tell it to anyone because people would call me a stool pigeon.

Q: Have you ever arrested anyone?

A: Yes, I arrested a white man. He asked me who I was. That was the only time.

Q: What did he do?

A: He was skinning a calf, so I scolded him. He asked me who I was, so I told him that I would put him in jail if he did not stop it. When I sent to make a phone call he saw my badge, so he ran away leaving everything behind. He didn't come after that time.

Q: Whose calf was it?

A: It belonged to the Captain. Until then he used to tell me that his cows were stolen, so I tried to catch the thief, and caught one. I didn't have the authority to arrest a man, but the sheriff came right away. The man jumped in the water and swam away, and did not come back any more.

Q: How many children do you have?

A: Eight.

Q: Are your children taking care of your ranch?

A: Yes, they are.

Q: Were there difficult times before the war?

A: It was hard to buy land.

Q: Why?

A: Because we did not have citizenship. They made a law that Japanese could not own land, but I did not have any difficulty. My white neighbors told me not to worry as I was just as same as a citizen.

Q: How did you buy the land?

A: I bought in my child's name with ^ me as a guardian. We took a legal procedure, so they couldn't do anything about it. There wasn't any trouble. They were all good to me.

Q: What other difficulties did you have?

A: I didn't have any other difficulties.

Q: Was your work very hard and busy?

A: Yes, I was busy. I worked very hard. Work is the best thing. We do not need anything else. If we work hard we will succeed without fail. In my opinion there is nothing else.

Q: Did you have any trouble when the atmosphere became bad before the war?

A: No, I had no trouble.

Q: When Pearl Harbor was attacked .....

A: A newcomer who bought a house here ~~and~~ asked me why I was growing peas. I said, "What I grow is none of your business." I don't know how they found out but the neighbors came with two by fours and scolded the man saying, "What did you say to Harry? We will hit you with these lumber. What did he do wrong? He has been living here for a long time."

Q: Why did he say such a thing?

A: Because he didn't know me, and he wanted my property. Three of my neighbors came with two by fours. One of them loved my son as his own. There were five neighbors, and one of them was not home. When one neighbor was about to die he sent for me before he called his children. I still visit his grave and keep his photographs.

T: They must have been good to you because you were good to them.

K: I was not too good to them, but I did what I could.

Q: What kind of thing did you do for them?

A: I shouldn't say such thing, but I loaned money to them, ~~but~~ and they paid me back. At one time a man's son lost money on land but I bought it back for them and they paid me back. They let their children help me.

Q: Was he older than you?

A: Yes, he was my father's age. When he died his wife sent for me.

T: He must have treated you as his son.

K: Yes, he treated me like his son. He asked me what to do, so I siad, "Don't worry. Everybody has to die." His sons were all drunkards.

Q: They were not dependable, weren't they?

A: They used to come to me and borrowed $3 or $5. Their parents knew it.

Q: How old were they?

A: Around 40 years old. He had three sons, but all of them were no good.

Q: Was he a German?

A: I don't know for sure, but I think he was a German. He was a good man. He was kind to everyone.

Q: Did he die before the war?

A: Yes, he did.

Q: How did you feel when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: I couldm't do anything about it. The neighbors told me not to worry as they were on my side.

Q: Were you worried?

A: I was, but I couldn't do anything about it.

Q: What were you doing then?

A: I was farming.

Q: How did you find out about it?

A: I heard the news on the radio. I was surprised.

Q: Were there any trouble after that?

A: No, there wasn't any. Everyone was kind to me. Only the newcomers were not, but people who were here before scolded them.

Q: Didn't you have to go to a camp?

A: My neighbors objected saying that they won't let me go to the camp, but they were told that everyone had to go there so they could not have any exception.

Q: Did you receive an evacuation notice?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Where did you go to?

A:We went to Minidoka after going to Puyallup.

Q: What did you do with your land when you went to Puyallup?

A: I left it with a white man.

Q: Was he your neighbor?

A: Yes. I didn't have to worry as everyone was there. If we didn't use the land it will run waste, so a man raised cattle there. He just paid the tax.

Q: Did you take all your 7 children with you to Puyallup?

A: Yes, I did. One of them was ill.

Q: Did you go to Puyallup by yourselves or were you taken there?

A: We went there by ourselves. People in town may have gone there some other way, but we had a truck so we went there by a truck. We had many boxes which the people in town needed, so I took them to town. It was very pitiful.

Q: How did you feel when you had to go to a camp?

A: We couldn't do anything about it.

Q: About how many months did you stay in the assembly center at Puyallup?

A: I think we stayed there for 3 to 4 months. We went there late.

Q: How did you feel when you went there?

A: It was very dirty.

Q: How was it dirty?

A: They urinated everywhere. I was surprised. As soon as I got there I started cleaning starting near the gate, and one line at a time. It was very dirty. I cleaned the entrance where 20 to 30 old people sat and watched me. I cleaned the toilets and picked up all the trash on the roadside. In the evening I shoveled the dirt with urine on a wheelbarrow and dumped it. I told the head of the camp that we should put a sign to prohibit from urinating there. He said that was a good idea as it was too dirty. I told him that if it is not clean someone is going to get sick. I took a wheelbarrow and cleaned the place up. When I did that some people said that I was sabotaging. I said, "If you don't like it, you do it." They said they didn't want to do that, so I had to do it. "What do you do that for?" they asked. "Just think," I siad, "If someone gets sick, everyone will become sick, too." I cleaned like that everyday.

Side 3 Q: Did they go to toilet everywhere?

A: Most people went to latrines, but some malicious people did it outside. It was very dirty. I told the head of the camp that we should put up signs or people would become ill.

Q: Was the head of the camp a Japanese?

A: Yes. Then signs were posted. After that people stopped doing it.

T: Wasn't it a shame that Japanese who like cleanliness did such things.

K: There were latrines, but I think they didn't want to go there if they were too far. I think some people understood my intention and went to see the head of the camp,who assigned some people to help me. Since then the camp became clean. Not only our camp but all the other camps started cleaning up/

The guards knew what I was doing, so when I went to clean in the morning they used to tell me to have some drink. They were old men. I told them that I didn't drink. As I worked so hard they stopped throwing trash around. When I asked the boss of MPs to hire someone to clean up the place,he did. The cleaning man was paid $6 a month. They gave me clothings and shoes.

Q: How was the food?

A: It was very good.

Q: Did you line up at the mess hall?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: Did anything else happen in the assembly center at Puyallup?

A: There wasn't anything else.

Q: Were you given any work?

A: No, not there. Since I cleaned, they hired a man to clean.

Q: Were there any trouble since many Japanese were put together in a small place?

A: No, there wasn't any trouble. Everyone was quiet.

Q: Did you know each other?

A: We knew everybody from Seattle, Canton and Tacoma.

Q: Is there anything else you remember about Puyallup?

A: That was all.

Q: How did you go from Puyallup to Minidoka?

A: They took us there by train.

Q: How were the barracks in Puyallup?

A: There were partitions between families.

Q: Could you hear your neighbors?

A: Of course we could hear them.

T: That must have been embarrasing.

K: There wasn't much to talk about there.

Q: How were the children?

A: They were all happy. We had fun after we went to Minidoka. We made roads and ditches. We were all young.

Q: What do you mean by "fun"?

A: We wrestled and had other fun. We never had a quarrel.

Q: Did you work?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you get paid $16 by making roads?

A: Yes. We made a road behind the camp where people walk, and small streets around it. Nobody else did it because it was hard.

Q: What is your hobby?

A: I don't have any particular hobby?

Q: Don't you play "Go" or "Shogi"?

A: No, I just work.

T: Many people practised caligraphy, played "Go" or "Shogi" in camps.

K: I just worked. I worked hard.

Q: Was the entertainment in camp Sumo wrestling and other things?

A: I enjoyed watching Sumo wrestling. They were all young people.

Q: What other entertainments were there?

A: Sumo wrestling was about the only thing.

Q: Did you wrestle to?

A: I was too old to wrestle. I was in my 60s. I worked hard.

Q: Did you still work ?

A: It was better to work.

Q: Were there questions about loyalty in your camp?

A: I didn't hear much about such thing.

Q: Did people discuss if the Niseis should join the armed service or not?

A: FBI man came and asked me, so I told him that as long as we live in this country they should join the service,

Q: Where was this at?

A: Two F.B.I. men came to my house and asked me what I thought about that problem. I told them that as long as I live in this country I will go if I have to. They didn't say anything and went back satisfied. I came to this country to die here.

Q: Did you have that intention from the beginning?

A: Yes, I did. My relative named Okubo Shinjuro lived in Oakland. Have you heard his name? My mother's nephew went to Hokkaido after graduating from Doshisha University. He died in Hokkaido.

Q: Did many people go to Hokkaido then just like many people came to America?

A: Yes, they did. He was my mother's nephew. He went there when I was about 6 years old.

Q: What else do you remember about the camp?

A: I don't remember anything. I only worked hard.

Q: Was Minidoka a cold place?

A: Yes, it was very cold. We used to go fishing for fun.

Q: Where did you go fishing?

A: We fished in a river.

Q: Was it the Snake River?

A: Yes, we used to go there. I had many friends from Portland.

Q: What kind of fish did you catch?

A: Fish called . it was something like mullet in Japan.

Q: How big were they? About 5 pounds?

A: Not so big, about 3 to 4 pounds.

Q: Was the fish good to eat?

A: Nobody ate them because they had too many bones. Yet when we took them back to the camp, the cooks made sashimi with them. Some people ate them saying they were good as there were no other fish. I used to go fishing when I had time.

Q: Did you work as a policeman or a manager in the camp?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Did you work as a foreman?

A: Yes, I built roads and a bridge. When I built a bridge, a government official was pleased.

Q: Did you know how to build a bridge?

A: No, I didn't, but I could do it by looking at one. I built a big bridge.

Q: Wasn't it hard to build a bridge?

A: Yes, it was as it was in a wide space. As the roads were full of stomes, I learned how to crack them. I became good at cracking stones.

Q: Where did you learn English?

A: I didn't learn English, so I don't know anything.

Q: You got along well with your neighbors, didn't you?

A: Yes, but they guessed what I was saying.

Q: Didn't many people enlist in service from Minidoka?

A: Yes, many people went to war from there.

Q: Didn't many die?

A: Not too many died. Many went to war from there. My second son enlisted from there, too.

Q: Did he come back safely?

A: Yes. He went to school in New Jersey. From there he went to Japan and was stationed in Mie Prefecture for 2 to 3 years.

Q: How long did you stay in Minidoka?

A: We left there as soon as we could leave the camp.

Q: Did you leave there before the war ended?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: Where did you go from there?

A: We went back home.

Q: How was it when you went home?

A: Everybody was glad to see us back. The happiest one to see me back was my horse. I am surprised that it remembered me. When I left home I left my dog and my horse in ~~the~~ care of my neighbor. It was so happy to see me that I cried. When I stopped my car on the highway and came home, the horse was drinking water. As soon as I got off of my car on the highway and saw my horse drinking water, I called, "Nicky". It looked up in surprise, put its mane and tail up and danced with joy. Tears came in my eyes when I saw it. I heard that my police dog died. People who took care of it told me that after I left, it did not eat anything for a while. He just sat at the gate waiting for me all day. As I still didn't come home after about a month, it went to the highway and waited for me. People broght it home and fed it. It was pitiful. I was surprised the horse remembered me. It must have been happy, but I was happy, too.

Q: Did you drive home?

A: My son brought me home.

Q: What happened to your house?

A: I left it with a neighbor.

Q: Were they still living in it when you came home?

A: No, they lived near our house and rented my house. Many things were stolen, including the gold which was buried in the ground.

Q: Were they buried in the backyard or somewhere?

A: I don't know how they stole them. We were lucky our house was not burned down.

Q: Did you have much gold burried?

A: No, not much. They were the ones I saved before there were no more gold coins. It was my son's fault. As he went there to get his camera they started looking for other things buried in the ground with machinary.

Q: Was your house vacant when you came home?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: Did you tell them that you were coming home?

A: Yes, I did. I had a bitter experience, but I was lucky as I had just my money stolen. I can get it back. When I saw gold for sale I bought them and put them away. I should have taken the gold with me.

Q: What has become of the money you had in the bank?

A: People could not withdraw it from the bank for a long time. I didn't have any money in the bank as I had many children going to school. Only thing I saved was the gold coins.

Q: Who took care of your ranch?

A: The man who took care of my horses took care of my ranch for me.

Q: Did he take good care of your land?

A: He was growing hay on it. The house was in a mess. I had to put new roofs on the house and the barn. The land was very fertile as it had not been used except for growing hay. It wouldn't have produced much if someone had been growing something. I left it in care of people, but I told them not to grow anything but hay. That is why the land was fertile. Usually one stalk of corn has one ear, but my corn had 4 to 5 ears. I didn't know they produce so many ears. Everybody looked at them with amazement. I worked too hard then, so it is affecting my legs now.

Q: Do you get cramps in your legs?

A: Yes, I do. It is from hardwork.

Q: What did you do after you came home?

A: I couldn't do anything but farm.

Q: Did you roof your house and then tilled the land?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: How about your farming tools?

A: I left my tractor and other things with some people.

Q: Did you get them back?

A: Yes, I did. The person who took care of my tractor must have made some money by loaning it to other people, because there were few good tractors in those days. My neighbor told me that many people were renting my tractor. I had a hard time as the land was low and I had to dry the land.

Q: How did you dry the land?

A: By digging ditches. At one time the government built a highway. As they had buried small pipes where the water stayed, the land didn't dry. The government did not dig, so I dug with my hands, and with 4x1 lumber I made about 400 feet of and drained the water/ Because of that about 500 to 600 acres of land dried.

Could not understand last part

Q: When did you retire?

A: I have not retired yet. I am going to work till I die.

Q: Are your sons helping you?

A: I am helping my sons. Niseis don't work too hard. When they dig ditches they dig from the road, so I tell them that is no good. I still work with long boots on, otherwise we cannot dig a road. I worked hard. A man does not need learning or anything else but just hard work. There is nothing else. From my experience. there is nothing else for a man to do but to work hard. People say that just working is not good, but a person like myself who do not have brains has nothing to do but to work.

Q: What kind of thing do you want to teach Sanseis?

A: I don't have anything to teach them. As for myself, I think we don't need anything except work.

Q: Do you think Sanseis do not work hard?

A: I don't think we have to worry about them.

Q: What do you mean by that?

A: I think they will work if they get hungry. I don't have anything else to teach them.

Q: You don't worry, then?

A: No, I don't. They have to work if they cannot make a living. I tell them that they will understand sooner or later.

Q: Do you think it is important to be aware of being a Japanese?

A: I don't think so. There is no difference whether Japanese or Americans now.

Q: You got along well with Americans, didn't you?

A: I never had a quarrel with them.

Q: You probably have never quarreled with Japanese either, haven't you?

A: Only once. I fought in a court against a man who took produce from farmers and didn't pay them/

Q: Where did it happen?

A: I did it because nobody did it. Attorney General of Olympia helped me.

Q: When did it happen?

A: Before the war.

Q: Didn't this white man pay the Japanese?

A: No, he didn't. The wholesale dealers in Tacoma and Seattle area got into trouble because I told it to the Attorney General.

Q: Did you sue them?

A: It was just like sueing. The attorney general called me and asked me what they should do, so I gave my opinion.

T: I didn't understand well.

K: The wholesale dealers did not buy produce from farmers with cash, but sold them on consignment. When they sold the produce they took their commission and had to give the rest to the farmers, but they didn't pay them.

Q: Were they the white people?

A: They were both the whites and Japanese. I sacrificed my personal interest and took them to the court. A Japanese man who used to be my friend was one of the worst ones. When I told him, he said, "Being a friend is a different matter from making money." I told him that I would not let him do such business. "What are you talking about?" he said, and he and his wife and other people laughed at me. That is why I want to the court. Since then the wholesalers were troubled. Until then they paid farmers as if the grownups gave money to children in order to make the children attach to them. Farmers and dairy farmers had hard times. I went to the court and told the attorney general that I wanted the wholesalers to pay for the merchandise within a week. I sued them, but they couldn't do anything about it. They lost the case because I was right. They started crying.

Q: If you grew strawberry for example, and took them to the market, didn't you know how much the strawberry was sold for?

A: That was bad, but they did not pay us the money.

Q: Were there many instances when the farmers did not get paid?

A: Of course, they didn't get paid for 5 to 10 years. That is why I said that if we were paid within a week there wouldn't be any trouble. Up to then everybody had hard time..

Q: Were the wholesalers troubled after the trial?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: They were making money doing that, weren't they?

A: Yes, they were. It was like making the children attach to them. That is why I was hated by them.

Q: But you helped many farmers, didn't you?

A: Yes, farmers and dairymen.

Q: Was there a trial?

A: Yes, there was.

Q: In trial we usually say so-and-so versus so-and so. In whose name was the trial held?

A: I appealed to the court, so the attorney general took up the case. I just went to the court as a witness.

Q: Around what year was that?

A: It was before the war.

Q: How long before the war was it?

A: It was two or three years before the war/

Q: Was it around 1939 or 1940?

A: Yes, it was. I was hated by merchants.

Side 4

Q: Were you associated with the Japanese Association and other associations?

A: No, not much. I just helped, but I did not assume any responsible position.

Q: Are you a Buddhist?

A: Yes, I am.

Q: Is it Nishi Honganji sect?

A: It is Onishi.

Q: Was your father a Buddhist, too?

A: Yes, he was.

Q: Do you remember any other such case?

A: There isn't any more besides that case.

Q: You took a daring action, didn't you?

A: I said I would do it because the farmers had to suffer if nobody did anything about it. Everybody was surprised.

Q: Were you cheated,too?

A: I was cheated of about $20,000. He was my friend. I told him that if he was going to do such cruel thing I would stand up against him. " Do it if you can", he dared, so I said, "All right" and started the action. He and his wife came crying and asked me to stop it, but I said, "No, I won't stop until I smash you because you do things that would hurt other people."

Q:

Q: Did they come to you after the trial started?

A: Yes, the whole family came, but I didn't listen to them. I said, "If you keep this up the Japanese farmers in Canton Valley cannot make a living, so I am going against you."

Q: Was he making a lot of money?

A: Yes, he made a lot of money and sent it to Japan. I told him, "Nothing good will happen to you if you do such thing. Wait and see who is right." He was my friend, but I could not ignore him.

Q: What happened to him after that?

A: He could not operate any more. He had a son, who was disgusted with his parents and went back to Japan. The son knew that his father was no good. He had a foster child, who left him, also.

Q: Was it after the trial?

A: It was during the trial. He had two sons. I think one of them is living in Portland. The sons were quiet.

Q: Was he powerful because the farmers could not sell without wholesalers?

A: There were too many farmers. He was a peddler before but became a wholesaler and started cheating farmers. He built up property in Japan, and did not pay the farmers saying that he did not have money.

Q: Did he go back to Japan?

A: He and his wife died in Portland.

Q: Then he made the money for nothing, didn't he?

A: He made a fortune in Japan, but it didn't do him any good.

Q: Was he from your prefecture?

A: No, he was from Oita Prefecture. My friends and I sacrificed ourselves. It would be our fault if we trust such people.

Q: Were there many such bad people?

A: No, there weren't. There were two or three who benifited themselves on others' expense in Seattle.

Q: Didn't you have any connection with Furuya Company?

A: I had a business of my own in those days, so I didn't spend others' money.

Q: Didn't they own a bank?

A: I think they had a bank, but they didn't make much money. Looking back, I think Isseis worked hard for nothing.

Q: Is there anything else you remember?

A: There isn't anything else. I just worked hard.

Q: Did you go back to Japan?

A: I went back twice.

Q: Did you want to go back to Japan when you first came here?

A: I didn't want to go back. I wanted to make a living here. I worked hard, but no matter how hard I worked I couldn't save money.

Q: Were you back here near Tacoma when the war ended?

A: Yes.

Q: How did you feel when Japan lost the war?

A: I thought it couldn't be helped. We had to start all over again.

Q: Did the white people say anything?

A: They said they would not sent me to a camp, and signed a petition. When they took it to the government they were told that the government could not do anything about it. One of the neighbor's son was a lawyer, so he said he would help as much as he could, but he could not make exception of just one family.

Q: How did you feel when you came back after Japan lost the war?

A: I thought it couldn't be helped.

Q: Did the neighbors comfort you?

A: Yes, they were glad to see me back, and helped me.

Q: Was there a celebration when the war ended?

A: I came back here around October. There wasn't any trouble.

Q: Did you come back here straight from the camp?

A: We left the camp early and worked.

Q: Where did you work?

A: At Nissa in Oregon. Ryo, Mike, my wife and myself worked at a white ranch and made enough money to live on the following year. Four of us made about $4,000, which helped us. They did not pay us much, but when four of us worked we made good money.

Q: About how long did you work?

A: About three months.

Q: Is your wife still well?

A: She is in a hospital now.

Q: How old is she now?

A: She is 88 years old.

Q: Both of you are living long, aren't you?

A: Yes, she worked hard, too. It is good that she lived to be 88.

Q: Isseis had hard times, didn't they?

A: Yes. It was like a dream. There was an interesting epidode in the camp. When I was building a road I was a foreman of about 80 men. As they worked hard, the mess hall should have given them lunch, but it didn't, so the young men did some mischief. When I saw them loading a truck with big rocks, I asked them what they were doing. They told me that the mess hall did not give them lunch, so just wait and see what happens. When I came home two Japanese policemen came and told me to come to the police station. I told them that I didn't do anything wrong, but they told me that my son had done some mischief, so I had to go to the station. When I went to the mess hall I saw a big rock in the doorway. I asked what happened, and they told me that my son left the rock there as the mess hall did not feed the men. They told me to move the rock, but I didn't listen to them saying that I didn't know anything about it. The milkman and other delivery men could not get

into the mess hall, but I left it alone. The next day, the head of the camp told me to do something about it, so I took a truck and had it removed. Since then they gave us lunch. When I had many young men working for me I had such an experience.

Q: You were 60 years old when you were in camp, weren't you?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: It was the age for normal people to retire, wasn't it?

A: Yes, it was. When I went home, the policemen came again and told me that the head of the camp wanted to see me. They told me that the boss brought two women as my drivers. Two days after the women drivers started working, they were arrested in town and were put in jail. When I went to the jail the two women were sitting in the jail. I asked the boss to pardon them as they would not do it again, and I brought them back.

Q: What do they do?

A: They were my drivers. Male drivers came, so I wondered what had happened to women drivers, but they did not say anything. I went to jail and picked up the women drivers.

Q: What were the women drivers driving?

A: They were driving trucks.

Q: Were they in the camp?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: Were they Niseis?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: Did they go to town?

A: As it was the first time they went to town by a car they went shopping. They were caught by the head of the camp and was put in jail.

Q: Was the jail in the camp?

A: Yes, it was. Men drivers came but they did not say anything. When I was eating I was told to go and see the boss. The boss asked me if I sent the women out, so I told him that I didn't know anything. Then he told me that the women were in jail, so go there and get them out. All kinds of things happened. M.P.s used to come every day and asked me if I had brought lunch.

They used to make us work hard. We built the roads in the camp/ About 80 people worked together, so it was fast. We should have got paid more for such hard work, but we were paid only $19 which was enough to buy cigarettes.

Q: You must remember all kinds of things?

A: Yes, I do. The head of the M.P.s took good care of me.

Q: Were there any trouble?

A: No, there wasn't any except the case of women drivers, and the case of leaving a big boulder in front of the mess hall. Young people didn't think about anything but eating.

T: You are a gentle man.

K: I am not too gentle, but I worked hard because someone had to do it. Besides building roads I was made to do all kinds of things. Cultivating the land was the hardest job.

Q: What kind of thing did you do?

A: On flat ground we burnt sagebrush, plowed the land and made fields. We had to get rid of rocks in between.

Q: Did you do that with tractors?

A: Yes, we did. There were about 40 tractors.

Q: Were you the foreman of that work?

A: Yes, I was. We quit it because I siad it was no use making bad fields. Then I worked on irrigation. It was a hard job as I had to go there twice a day; in the morning and at night.

Q: What did you do in the morning and at night?

A: I measured the water level to see how much water we needed.

Q: Did many produce grow at Minidoka?

A: There are many farmers there now. I heard that farmers bought the land in the camp as there were fields.

Q: Did Japanese go there and grow ~~produce~~ vegetables?

A: Yes, Japanese and the whites are still growing ~~produce~~ vegetables there.

Q: Were there snakes there?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: Were there rattlers?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: Did you find them when you cultivated the land?

A: There were many gathered in one place like under a rock. We could not put our hands under a rock carelessly as they would jump on you, so it is very dangerous.

Q: Have you ever been bitten by one?

A: No, I haven't.

Q: What do you do with them? Do you kill them?

A: We have to kill them as they are dangerous.

Q: Was anybody bitten by one?

A: Nobody, as we watched very carefully.

Q: Don't some Isseis drink the liver of the rattlers?

A: Yes, they do.

Q: Do some people eat the rattlers?

A: Yes, they are good. I have eaten it.

Q: How did you eat it?

A: By broiling it. It is like a Japanese snake. It is a medicine.

I ate a lot of them.

Q: Is that so. Is it good?

A: Yes, it is good.

Q: Do you like to drink Sake?

A: Yes, I do. I used to drink a lot when I was in Santa Maria.

Q: Did you get drunk?

A: I got drunk then. Mr. Yamada said," Aren't you going to quit.

You have drunk 170 to 180 bottles of Sake."

Q: Did you drink 170 bottles of Sake?

A: My friends and I did.

Q: How many people did?

A: There were many. Some people ran away without paying.

T: As you said, your past must be like a dream.

K: Yes, it is a dream. When I went to Guadalupe last year I wanted to see my white friend, but he was not alive. His grandson was surprised to see his grandfather's friend.

Q: Were you called "Young-san", too?

A: Yes, I was as I was about 20 years old (when I came here),

Q: Weren't most people 30 to 40 years old when you came here?

A: Yes, they were. There was a barber who came here before me. My neighbor came here after I did. He had a son same age as I was.

Q: Did those people all go back to Japan?

A: I heard that my neighbor did. He was here for a long time. Many students came here from Hokkaido around that time. People who worked before were all right, but those who had education did not succeed much.

T: Maybe because they didn't know how to work.

K: Yes, and they couldn't work.

T: They may not have been physically fit to work.

K: Yes, because it was hard work.

Q: You started working early, didn't you?

A: I was 11 years old when I started working. I was in the second grade of the grammar school. That is why I am strong-willed.

Q: Are there anything else you can remember?

A: Yes, there are, but it won't do anybody good even if I tell you.

T: Yes, it will, so please tell me about your hardship.

K: There is not much hardship in this country; we just didn't have much money. If we endure, there is no hardship.

T: Tell me about your daily life when you were farming in Tacoma.

K: I was in business in Tacoma and I almost went broke. That is why I started farming. My wife had a hard time. She was a vetenarian's daughter and never worked before. I made money but could not save money in Tacoma, so I want to the country and started all over again. We had much hardships.

Q: What time did you get up in the morning?

A: In those days I didn't have any money. My wife came from Japan, so two of us became dayworkers.

Q: What time did you get up in the morning?

A: Daywork started at 6 o'clock in the morning in those days, so we worked 11 hours a day.

Q: Did you just come home and sleep at night?

A: Yes. It was good when we did daywork. It was hard when I was a peddler. I had to leave home at 5 o'clock in the morning, and at night I used to come home around 8 or 9 o'clock on horseback from Point Devons which was 12 miles from where I lived. I had a hard time.

Q: Did you go on horseback?

A: Yes. There were automobiles, but I didn't have money to buy one. I worked hard.

Q: What about when you were farming?

A: I used hores, and later tractors.

Q: What time did you start working when you were farming?

A: I started early around 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning.

Q: What time did you come home in the evening?

A: After dark.

Q: Did you do anything after supper?

A: Yes, I did. I washed and piled up the ~~produce~~ crops I picked in the daytime, so it was midnight when I went to bed. My wife helped me. After I quit the business in town and came to the country, my friend's son came from Japan and helped me. Since then I could save some money. I thought then that farming was better than business. This boy worked very hard. I raised vegetables and this boy went out selling. My wife helped me by bundling vegetables.

Q: Did you grow the vegetables and went out selling them?

A: Yes, we sold them to small grocery stores. If the produce do not sell at big grocery stores, we have to replace them with fresh ones, so we sold them to small grocery stores.

We worked hard. The boy was a hard worker. He was my friend's son. He was 16, and had graduated from an agricultural school. Since he started helping me, things started going well. I couldn't have worked alone. He worked hard for me for 5 to 6 years. I wrapped the money he earned and put it in a coal bin. In those days the money came in silver and gold coins. I took them to Furuya Company and deposited them for him. When he went back to Japan after about 6 years. I gave the money to him saying that it was the money he earned.

Side 5

Q: Was your friend the one you worked with when you were in wholesale business?

A: Yes, he was. He came back to America to make some money.

Q: But his son was great, wasn't he?

A: Yes, he was. After his son went back to Japan, he and his wife came to see me. He said I took away his son, but it was all right as I gave him the money. He and his wife helped me for a year without pay. Wasn't that something?

T: We cannot think of doing such thing nowadays. There are no such people nowadays.

K. They stayed with me for a year. When they left I gave them some money. They had peculiar ideas. They dried cows' bile which they got from Mr. Castin, their friend, and took it back with them as medicine. As they were friends, Mr. Castin told them to take as much as they wanted.

Q: Did Mr. Castin own a slaughter house?

A: Yes, he was a wealthy man. I heard that he had $40 million. I could have as much manure as I wanted. He told me to sell it and make money, but I did not want to do so because if the crops were not good I would not have got paid. The boy's parents stayed with me for a year and helped me.

T: We cannot think of such thing nowadays.

K: He was an honest young man. He told me that he didn't want so much money, but I gave him half for working very hard. I bought land, and he went back to Japan and built a house. I think he died as I don't hear from him any more. He did not drink at all, but he wrote and told me that he started drinking after he went into business. I told him that he should not drink, but it was too late. He went home happy. I bought him two pieces of glass.

Q: How much did they cost?

A: They were quite expensive. My friend was the captain of the ship. He said we could not take such a thing on the ship. I told him that he was my son, so the captain let him take them.

Q: They were hard to get in Japan, weren't they?

A: Yes, they were. When he came back to America he told me that he opened the best store on the San-In Highway. He was honest and worked hard.

Q: What did you do after he went back to Japan?

A: I missed him. I hired another man, but he spent all the money by drinking. His cousin had a restaurant, so I told him about this man. The cousin knew about his drinking, so he told him to quit the job.

Q: What did you do after that?

A: I did as much as I could by myself, and did not work extensively. That boy worked very hard. I had been hearing from him till 3 to 4 years before the war, but suddenly I did not hear from him any more, so he must have died. I should visit him if I go to Japan, but I don't think I can go there any more.

Q: Did you farm by yourself after the drunkard left until the war?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: How did you sell your crops? Did you sell it by yourself?

A: Yes, I did as much as I could.

Q: How old were your children then?

A: They were still little as it was before the war. They were attending schools. After we came home from the camp my son worked. I did all kinds of work. I think one who worked hard is the winner. His father was a good man, but the boy was very honest. They came to America every year and took back all kinds of farm implements. A man's life is long.

T: Isseis worked hard.

K: I was not the only one. Everybody worked hard. We worked hard from early in the morning.

Q: Did many people return to Japan?

A: Yes. Those who returned home in those days saved much money and took them home. People who went home before that time did not take much money home. They worked hard till night time. People worked hard around here, too.

Q: Do you think it was good that you came to America?

A: I think it was good. If I hadn't come to America, I would have gone to Taiwan, Korea or to Kuma-gun in Kumamoto Prefecture.

Q: Did the government encourage you to go abroad in those days?

A: No, it didn't, only to Taiwan. But people like myself might have become ill in Taiwan.

Q: You were healthy, weren't you?

A: I was pretty healthy. In those days people were going to Taiwan as policemen.

Q: What time do you get up when you go back to Tacoma?

A: I am not doing anything. My wife is ill, so I visit here in the hospital at night. I don't get up earlier than 9 o'clock/

Q: What do you do after you get up?

A: I do some housework. My daughter-in-law works outside, so I do the housework. I work around the house in the afternoon.

Q: Do you work outside?

A: If I go outside, my son does not work hard, so I leave him alone. Our house is big, so I have a lot of housework to do.

Q: Do you go fishing now?

A: No, I don't.

Q: Did you used to go fishing before?

A: I used to go fishing often before.

Q: Did you go catching octapus and shellfish?

A: Yes, I used to, but not any more. I used to go fishing for spearhead in Puyallup River, but I haven't been there for a long time as my children scold me saying that I might fall into the river. I tell them that even if I fall into the river I won't drown as I can swim.

Q: How long haven't you gone fishing?

A: I haven't gone fishing for a long time.

Q: For about 10 years?

A: For about 6 to 7 years. Until then I went fishing every day. I used to go fishing in the ocean and in rivers. Especially in Puyallup River I could catch big spearheads.

Q: It must have been hard to pull up the fishing rod, wasn't it?

A: No, it wasn't, because I used big reels. I caught big ones. There are not too many of them nowadays. When I came home from the camp there were not too many people here, so there were many fish. I went fishing one evening after I came home from camp and caught two spearheads. I was going to catch the third one, but a white man told me that I could not catch more than two. There are not many of them now because the Indians catch them and take them to Portland to sell them.

Q: Do you remember anything about Sacramento when you came here?

A: I don't remember much. The city was still small. There were many tramps behind the train depot. The bridge was made of mud.

Q: Were there many tramps?

A: Yes, there were. They were eating and drinking coffee there. I watched them with curiosity as I just came from Japan. It was more than 70 years ago. The cemetery was on the edge of the city then. I was surprised to see it in the middle of the city now. Things have changed much. The state capitol was the only big building.

Q: Are you 93 years old now?

A: I am 94 years old in Japanese age.

Q: Do you live near Tacoma?

A: I live in Auburn. When I came here I was surprised that I had only beans for meals. When I went to Guadalupe I was surprised because people were eating good.

T: People around Sacramento had hard times.

K: Yes, I thought so.

T: People in Florin grew strawberry, but the soil was not good. I think they were given hard times by wholesalers.

K: Yes, if they did not get money for the produce they send, they would be in trouble.

T: They were behind pay, so they borrowed money to build houses.

K: That was bad. In the first place, they did not know the language and the Niseis were still too young.

Q: They were deceived, weren't they?

A: Yes, they were. When I was working at Matsumoto's, there were some college graduates. I told them to leave there as I had a hard time.

T: I hear that many people around Fresno suffered and died.

K: Yes. My father's friend told me that they suffered from flu. Once they caught it, that was the end. In Guadalupe, also, some people who came from Mexico suffered from flu.

Q: Were they Mexicans?

A: They came from Mexico. They worked in Fresno for a while and caught the flu. They were suffereing when they came to our camp.

Q: Do you know that some women who came here as picture brides were cheated by men?

A: There may have been such cases, but there were no such people when I came here.

T: There must have been very few such cases.

K: Yes. Japanese parents check upron the grooms-to-be well. If the women did not like the men, it couldn't be helped as they did not know each other. In most cases there were understanding between them. There wasn't any such trouble there.

T: I hear that around here often pictures of women were printed in the paper saying that there will be a prize given to people who find those people.

K: I think there may be such cases here, but I never heard of such cases there.

T: I think Isseis in Washington made friends with the white people and were helped. Isseis in California had hard times compared to them. I think the white people in Washington were good to Japanese.

K: There wasn't any Japanese who had any trouble there.

Q: How about in the sawmills?

A: There may have been some trouble in sawmills, but I don't know about them.

Q: Did you say you worked in a sawmill for about a week?

A: Yes, I worked in a sawmill near the town only about a week. I think there were troubles where there were racketeers.

Q: In Tacoma?

A: Yama did not have children. People who had children did not get in troble. There may have been some trouble in the country, but even if it did, there was not much.If they stayed at Yama's they might have been in trouble as they were lonesone, but I didn't hear of any. Only there was a murder case from gambling, but I didn't hear of any trouble with women.

Q: Was the crime found out?

A: Yes, it was. After all, he was killed. If you do bad things you get the consequences.

T: It deserved him right.

K: Yes. There were bad people in California or in Seattle.

Q: Wasn't there Sakura-Dan?

A: Yes, it was in California. There was a member in Seattle and in Tacoma. His name was Yanagida. He shot a man, but he was shot, too. He did bad things.

Q: Did Yanagida do bad things?

A: Yes, he killed one whole family. I don't know why he did it. Finally he was shot for doing bad things. We do not know who shot him, but I think a good guy shot him. For a while there were such happenings anywhere. People who did such bad things in Tacoma were racketeers. Before I went there, a man named Moriyasu killed his boss. I think his conscience bothered him, for he killed himself.

Q: Were there brothels in Tacoma?

A: There were in olden days. I was doing business in those days. I told a policeman that a bad thing was started. There were some in Tacoma and some in Seattle, but they did not last long.

T: I hear that there were many brothels around here.

K: I think there were. In those days a meal cost 10 cents. It must be very expensive nowadays.

T: It cost 20 times as much.

K: Oh, is that so. You don't have to make much money. When I was in business, food was only $6 a month and I was fed well. It was 10¢ a meal even if we went to a restaurant. There were many students. After I moved from here to Tacoma, a training squadron came from Japan. It was very lively then. The training squadron came there twice.